

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FINNISH DELEGATION TO MARCH 4-5 LABOR MINISTERS MEETING

REF: OECD PARIS 5058

1. ALTHOUGH NOT LISTED IN REFTEL FINLAND HAS SLECTED ITS DELEGATION TO MARCH 4-5 MEETING OF LABOR MINISTERS. DELEGATION LEADER IS PAAVO AITIO, MINISTER OF LABOR. DEPUTY LEADER IS AMBASSADOR RALPH ENCKELL, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AT OECD. OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS FROM FINNISH LABOR MINISTRY ARE CHIEF OF CHANCERY ("PERMANENT SECRETARY") KEIJO LIINAMAA; RESEARCH AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT CHIEF ALTTI MAJAVA; AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY PAUL SNELLMAN.

2. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

A. PAAVO AITIO. AITIO IS THE THIRD-RANKING MEMBER AND SENIOR COMMUNIST IN GOVERNMENT FORMED BY CENTER PARTY PRIME MINISTER MARTTI MIETTUNEN ON NOVEMBER 30, 1975. BORN IN TURKU ON JULY 14, 1918 AITIO IS A SELF-EDUCATED PROFESSIONAL POLITICIAN WHO HAS FOURTH LONGEST RECORD OF SERVICE IN FINNISH PARLIAMENT. HIS PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

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IN 1962, AITIO HAS SERVED ONCE BEFORE AS MINISTER OF

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS (INCLUDING PRESENT LABOR MINISTRY) IN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LED GOVERNMENT FROM 1968 TO 1970. AITIO ESTABLISHED AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION WITH THE CAREER CIVIL SERVICE DURING HIS PREVIOUS STINT AS MINISTER. HE WAS DESCRIBED BY ONE SENIOR OFFICIAL AS A RELIABLE AND DECISIVE ADMINISTRATOR. HE ENJOYS THE SAME RESPECT FROM HIS CURRENT SUBORDINATES WHO DESCRIBE HIM AS EASY TO WORK WITH. THESE PERCEPTIONS FIT WITH THE GENERAL IMAGE OF A CALM, PRACTICAL PERSON WHOSE LONG EXPERIENCE HAS BRED CONFIDENCE. AITIO ALWAYS EXHIBITS THE UTMOST RESPECT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND IS OFTEN THE LAST PERSON IN A GROUP ONE WOULD EXPECT TO BE A COMMUNIST. HE EVEN HAS THE DISTINCTION OF ONCE BEING NAMED ONE OF FINLAND'S TEN BEST-DRESSED MEN. AITIO DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH AND HIS REMARKS AT OECD WILL BE DELIVERED IN ADVANCE TO INTERPRETERS IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION.

B. RALPH ENCKELL. ENCKELL IS SIMULTANEOUSLY AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, OECD AND UNESCO. BORN MAY 13, 1913 HE IS ONE OF FINLAND'S MOST DISTINGUISHED CAREER DIPLOMATS AND SERVED AS AN APOSTLE FOR THE CSCE IN LATE 60'S AND EARLY 70'S. ENCKELL HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE PRESS ATTENTION IN FINLAND IN RECENT WEEKS BECAUSE OF COMPLAINTS LODGED BY HIS EMBASSY STAFF ABOUT HIS AUTOCRATIC ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES. A SPECIAL MISSION FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY INCLUDING A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EMPLOYEES UNION HAS JUST VISITED PARIS TO INVESTIGATE THE CHARGES.

C. KEIJO LIINAMAA. LIINAMAA WAS PRIME MINISTER IN THE "EXPERT" GOVERNMENT THAT PRECEDED THE PRESENT CABINET. HE IS A SOCIAL DEMOCRAT WHO MADE HIS REPUTATION AS A LABOR MEDIATOR AND LEADER OF SEVERAL ROUNDS OF NATIONWIDE INCOME POLICY NEGOTIATIONS. BORN MAY 6, 1929 LIINAMAA HAS THE TYPE OF PERSONALITY ONE WOULD EXPECT OF A SUCCESSFUL MEDIATOR: PRECISE, METHODICAL AND UNFAILINGLY COURTEOUS. HE IS A STRONG FRIEND OF THE US WHICH HE VISITED ON AN IVP LEADER GRANT IN 1965. LIINAMAA UNDERSTANDS ENGLISH WELL BUT PREFERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO USE FINNISH WHEN EXPRESSING HIMSELF ON A SUBJECT OF ANY COMPLEXITY.

D. ALTTI MAJAVA. MAJAVA IS A 44 YEAR OLD CAREER CIVIL SERVANT WHO HAS BEEN SPECIALLY CONCERNED IN RECENT YEARS WITH MIGRATION OF FINNISH WORKERS TO SWEDEN. HE HAS ALSO PUBLICLY CRITICIZED THE GROWING POLITICIZATION OF CIVIL SERVICE APPOINTMENTS. MAJAVA

IS VICE CHAIRMAN OF SUOMI SEURA (FINLAND SOCIETY) AN ORGANIZATION OF OVERSEAS FINNS AND PRO-AMERICAN IN HIS ATTITUDES. HE SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH.

E. PAUL SNELLMAN. SNELLMAN IS ALSO A CAREER CIVIL SERVANT IN HIS 40'S. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND HAS BEEN VERY FRIENDLY IN HIS LIMITED CONTACTS WITH THIS EMBASSY. SNELLMAN'S WIFE WAS KILLED BY A TRAIN NEAR THEIR HOME IN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT WHILE SNELLMAN WAS ATTENDING AN OECD CONFERENCE ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO. AUSTAD

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